



Smith College Class of 1961

Spring 2021 Newsletter

A Message From the Class President

Hello Everyone!

Hope you all are fully vaccinated! It sure is a good feeling. The tide is turning!

Wasn't our class reunion survey interesting? Hope you all filled it out. Can't wait to hear the results from Deborah Heller at our class virtual reunion in June.

A new term for our class officers begins in June 2021. The term lasts until our 65th reunion in 2026. I would love for you to nominate yourself, or yourself and a co-chair (**ideal!**), or another classmate (after they have agreed to serve), for one of the positions listed below. Being a class officer is fun! You have opportunities to connect with classmates and make new friends! And you learn a lot about what's happening at Smith.

Tina Schafer Long has volunteered to be our Memorial Gifts chair, Nancy Silverman Skurnik has again volunteered to be Planned Giving Chair and Irene Starr, as always, will be our Class Website/Digital Media Chair, but she would very much like to have a co-chair. I'm sure Tina would like some help as well. Thanks so much to all of you!

The class officer positions open are as follows:

President	Treasurer	Memorial Gifts Co-chair
Reunion Chair	Fund Raising Chair	
Secretary	Media Co-chair	

The **President(s)** writes one or two annual newsletters, more often in the year preceding reunion. This is much easier than it used to be, as Smith provides a template. She holds meetings with class officers, annually in the first 4 years, and more often in reunion year. Zoom makes this so easy to do! She also selects officers for the coming term. She keeps tabs on the work of all the officers and makes decisions as needed.

The **Reunion Chair(s)** will be in charge of planning for our 65th Reunion, working with a liaison in the Smith Alumnae Office. As we age, Smith does a lot more of the work for us!

The **Secretary** writes the "Class Notes" for the *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* four times per year. She keeps minutes of class officer meetings, and sometimes organizes a class directory for Reunion with the help of Smith and a printer in Northampton.

The **Treasurer** approves expenditures by class officers. Smith covers most of them after our 60th reunion, and our class account is held at Smith.

Fund Team Coordinator(s) recruits classmates to write thank you notes to class donors, writes fundraising letters to the class, and works with the college to set fundraising strategies.

Class Website/Media Co-Chair helps Irene manage the class website, www.smith61.org, class [Facebook group](#) and other digital jobs as needed.

Memorial Gifts Co-Chair writes to the families of classmates who have died, and thanks donors of memorial gifts to Smith.

Please call or email me with questions about the positions and/or to submit nominations! Home telephone: 202-337-8233, cell: 202-549-3787. Prefer calls on my home number. Email me at vanbets@starpower.net. Here is a link to the Smith description of responsibilities: [Class Officer Volunteer Roles](#).

You may also consult with our current officers, listed below. I will present a slate of nominees at our virtual reunion. Additional nominations may be presented at that time, although I would strongly prefer to have nominees now! Voting will be in June after the reunion weekend.

Looking forward to seeing you in June!

Betsy Carter
Class President

Reunion Update

To those of you who have completed the brilliant survey/questionnaire created by our classmate Deborah Heller...Thank You! We're happy to report that, as we write, the responses are flowing in at an admirable clip. Deborah reports that over 100 responses had been received by March 16th! The more she receives, the more comprehensive and interesting report she'll be able to produce for us. So, if you haven't completed it yet, please do so; the deadline is April 6th. If

you're having trouble with the survey or don't have it for some reason, please email [Deborah Heller](#) and/or check your junk mail.

In other news: Louise Merrill Dudley is working on a directory of classmates which will be mailed to you later this month. Along with it you'll find a small present!—a bookmark that we are sending as a save-the-date for reunion. Although we will not be meeting in person this time, we're hoping that the Zoom format will expand our attendance to people who are geographically challenged, or who might not be able to get to Northampton for other reasons. So, we may see some classmates this year, albeit virtually, whom we haven't seen at reunions for a long time. We look forward to that!

Also, sometime in early April you will receive a snail mail communication from the college asking you to register for reunion. Even though registration is free, there is a need to know the numbers. So please do register promptly as it will help the college, and us with our planning. And you may want to stay in touch by checking out our website smith61.org.

We're still working on our 90-minute class meeting and program, and in our next communication we'll have more details on content and a specific time when that will take place. We anticipate that it will be on Friday, June 4th, or Saturday, June 5th. There will also be all-college programs—including faculty lectures—running throughout the weekend, from Thursday until Sunday, which will be of interest – more on that when we know more. Access to these programs should not be a problem for anyone as we will offer Zoom training prior to reunion.

We know that some houses have already had Zoom mini-reunion/meetings and we recommend that as a way of keeping everyone in touch! And please call your friends and urge them to register and join us at this landmark reunion.

Looking forward to Zooming with you!

All the best,
Anne Gagnebin Coffin & Mary Tison Wheeler
60th Reunion Co-Chairs

Fundraising Update

This is all about PARTICIPATION.

We are looking forward to our 60th(!) reunion. Because it will be virtual, we're hoping for—and anticipating—widespread **participation** in our Class of '61 landmark event. The reunion committee is abuzz with ideas to create an interesting, nostalgic, and especially, a happy occasion for all. Please know that everyone from every corner of the world is welcome. It will be exciting!

Participation is the key to another aspect: The Smith Fund. At reunion time especially, every alum owes it to herself to reinvest in the education that was available to her all those years ago. Times have changed, and so has the course curriculum. But excellence has remained the same. (And the tuition is a LOT higher.)

You may be aware that seven members of our class have donated, anonymously, a total of \$330,000 to challenge us to garner a class **participation** of 61% (I wonder where they got THAT number...) Remember, a \$10 gift and a \$10,000 gift count the same in participation. So really it should be pretty easy to hit, and far exceed, our goal.

Your fund agents thank you in advance for your **participation**. We look forward to seeing you virtually in just a few months, and in the meantime, we send you best wishes for a joyous and healthy spring.

Marion Scattergood Ballard, Sally Ross Schroeder & Alice Schaffer Smith
The Fund Team

GIVE TO SMITH

Planned Giving

Do remember, if you make a bequest before the end of June, 60% of it will count toward our 60th reunion class gift. For more information, contact [Sam Samuels](#), Smith's Director of Gift Planning.

Nancy Silverman Skurnik
Planned Giving Chair

Keep in Touch & Stay Informed

- Visit [Stay at Home with Smith](#) for the latest campus news
- [Alumnae Directory](#) (password protected)—find alumnae and update your profile
- [Update your contact information](#)
- Follow Smith on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)
- Access every issue of the [Smith Alumnae Quarterly](#), going back to 1909, on the SAQ digital archive
- View past issues of [Notes from Paradise](#)
- [Be A Friend](#) (of the Libraries, Botanic Garden, Athletics, or Museum of Art)
- [Volunteer for Admissions](#)
- Join a [Smith Club](#) in your area

Class Volunteers

President: [Betsy Carter](#)

Secretary: [Louise Merrill Dudley](#)

Treasurer: [Mary Kiley Newman](#)

Reunion Co-Chair: [Anne Gagnebin Coffin](#)

Reunion Co-Chair: [Mary Tison Wheeler](#)

Fund Team Coordinator: [Marion Scattergood Ballard](#)

Fund Team Coordinator: [Sally Ross Schroeder](#)

Fund Team Coordinator: [Alice Schaffer Smith](#)

Memorial Co-Chair: [Gill Wright Bentley](#)

Memorial Co-Chair: [Helen Hutchins Reed](#)

Planned Giving Chair: [Nancy Silverman Skurnik](#)

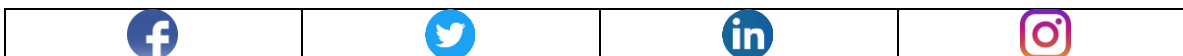
Web Chair: [Irene Stiefel Starr](#)

Connect With Us

Smith College Class of 1961

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SMITH COLLEGE	ALUMNAE RELATIONS	COVID-19 RESPONSE	GIVE TO SMITH
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